

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

for 1937.

Stourbridge :

MARK & MOODY, LTD., PRINTERS, HIGH STREET.

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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR J. A. MOBBERLEY, J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN G. H. EVESON, C.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR RUFUS DUNN, J.P., *Chairman.*

Alderman	Mrs. Francis	Councillor	F. G. Gregory
„	W. T. Harmon, C.C.	„	Mrs. Lunt, J.P.
„	Joseph Wright, C.C.	„	W. Perrins
Councillor	H. Barlow	„	B. Skelding
„	A. A. Bateman		

Medical Officer of Health :

*GEOFFREY DUDLEY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts :

*ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

(Cert. Meat and Food Inspector).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*A. E. K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*R. HAINES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Cert. Meat and Food Inspectors).

Clerks :

N. F. COOKSON

J. W. BILLINGHAM

R. F. ROBINS.

*Salary Contributions made by Exchequer Grants.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1937.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1937, being my Thirteenth Annual Report.

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

The Area was enlarged on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Urban District of Lye and Wollescote, and of the Parish of Pedmore which was part of the Rural District of Bromsgrove.

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Area is now	4,214
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	1,028
Pedmore	1,266
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was ...	33,140
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge	19,904
Lye and Wollescote	12,237
Pedmore	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1937 ...	34,900
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 ...	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1937 ...	9,880
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1937	9,936
Rateable Value	£165,318
Sum represented by a penny rate	£625 0 0

There is an increase in the population of 250 over the 1936 figure, which showed a slight decrease over the 1935 figure.

Physical Features, General Character and Social Conditions of the District.

The Town rises from the River Stour, which is the boundary of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and is on the North side of the Borough. The height above sea level at the River Boundary is 216 feet, rising to 442 feet at the South Boundary adjoining Bromsgrove Rural District, and to 512 feet on the East side.

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial. The industrial portions being principally on the North and North East sides. The South side being wholly residential.

The principal industries are Iron Works, Spades and Shovels ; Chains, Vices, Anvils, Frost Cogs, Fire Bricks, Gas Retorts, Galvanized, Enamelled and Japanned Buckets, Baths and General Hollow-ware ; Horse Shoes ; Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves ; Brushes and Brooms ; Earthenware Sinks ; Glazed Bricks ; Glass Works Pots.

The Borough own the Gasworks, which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, also, in conjunction with the Urban District of Amblecote, are owners of the Water undertaking.

No particular diseases are attributable to the occupations carried on in the District.

The estimated number of persons unemployed, according to the registers of the Employment Exchange, at the end of 1937 was 1200.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	213	...	236	...	449
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	...	5	...	12
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				220		241		461
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population : 13.21

Birth Rate for England and Wales : 14.9

The Birth Rate has decreased from 14.63 in 1936 to 13.21 in 1937 ; there being 46 fewer births. The number of illegitimate births has fallen from 24 in 1936 to 12 in 1937.

Still Births :

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	...	8	...	15
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	—		—
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				7		8		15
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 31.51

The number of still births has decreased from 25 in 1936 to 15 in 1937, this represents a slight saving in infant life.

DEATHS.

Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Females		...	...	...	...	...	206
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	413
							<hr/>

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 11.83

Adjusted Death Rate 12.30

The adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplication of the Crude Death Rate by a comparability factor, 1.04, supplied by the Registrar General.

Death Rate for England and Wales 12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	3	...	6.30
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	2	...	4.20
			—		—
			5		10.50
			—		—

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales were :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0.97
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	2.26
			—
			3.23
			—

It is very regrettable to have to report such a high Maternal Mortality Rate compared with that for England and Wales. The average rate for the previous four years was 2.98 for the Borough and 4.09 for England and Wales. There were five puerperal deaths, three being due to infection and two to other causes ; of the septic cases, one followed a rare condition, viz., inversion of the uterus ; this is said to occur only once in 200,000 cases ; in one of the other cases medical attention was not called until the patient was moribund. Of the non-septic cases, one was due to Eclampsia and the other to haemorrhage from a Placenta Praevia.

The large number of deaths appears to be accounted for by a considerable proportion of abnormal cases, which are not likely to recur. In addition to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, there are four qualified Midwives, appointed by the County Council, whose services are available in the Borough. There are also two ante-natal Clinics.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

			M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	11	...	11	...	22
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
			—		—		—
			11		11		22
			—		—		—

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age :—

All infants, per 1000 live births	...	...	...	47.70
Legitimate Infants, per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	48.99
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births...	...	...	...	—

The Infant Mortality Rate appears satisfactory, it being well below the average.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 58 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Total Number of Deaths.		Deaths under One Month.	
Congenital Abnormalities	...	5	...	3
Pneumonia	...	4	...	—
Prematurity	...	3	...	3
Bronchitis	...	2	...	—
Intracranial Haemorrhage	...	2	...	2
Congenital Syphilis	...	1	...	—
Marasmus	...	1	...	—
Gastro Enteritis	...	1	...	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	1	...	—
Asphyxia	...	1	...	1
Malnutrition	...	1	...	—
TOTALS	...	22	...	9

It will be seen that 40% of the Infantile Deaths occur during the first month of life.

The Infantile Deaths occurred in the different parts of the Borough as follows :—

Stourbridge	...	18
Lye and Wollescote		4
Pedmore	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

					M.	F.
1	Typhoid Fever, etc....	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	1
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	1
6	Influenza	...	...	...	8	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	10	6
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	2
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	1	1
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	2	—
13	Cancer	...	...	...	31	34
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	5	4
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	13	17
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	56	57
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	1	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	5	7
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	9	13
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	...	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3	4
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	6	6
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	3
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	2
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	7	7

CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued).							M.	F.
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	16	20
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
35	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
SPECIAL CAUSES (included in No. 35 above)							—	—
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total							207	206

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	65
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

The deaths were distributed as follows :—

			Internal Deaths.		External Deaths.		Total Deaths.
Stourbridge	...	...	175	...	96	...	271
Lye and Wollescote	...	...	92	...	31	...	123
Pedmore	...	...	17	...	2	...	19
			284		129		413

Comments on Causes of Death.

Heart Disease accounted for by far the largest number of deaths, viz., 113 out of 413 i.e., more than 1 in 4 ; in addition there were 12 deaths from other Circulatory Diseases, making 125 in all or 30.26% of the total deaths. There were 30 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cancer was the cause of death in 65 cases, i.e., approximately 1 in every 6 deaths. There were 10 deaths from Influenza. Respiratory Diseases, viz., Pneumonia and Bronchitis accounted for 32 deaths. 18 deaths were due to Tuberculosis, 16 from Pulmonary and 2 from Non-Pulmonary. These figures show a decrease over those for 1936, when 32 deaths were due to Tuberculosis—29 being Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary. 36 deaths were certified as being due to Senility.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 17 deaths from Zymotic Diseases during 1937, as compared with 18 in the previous year.

The Deaths were as follows :—Diphtheria, 3 ; Measles, 1 ; Whooping Cough, 1 ; Diarrhoea, 2 ; and Influenza, 10 ; giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.48.

The Death Rates per 1000 population were:—

Diphtheria	0.09 as compared with 0.07 for England and Wales.
Measles	0.03 as compared with 0.02 for England and Wales.
Whooping Cough	0.03 as compared with 0.04 for England and Wales.
Influenza	0.29 as compared with 0.45 for England and Wales.

Deaths from Diphtheria are mainly preventable, but for this to take place early treatment is essential. It cannot be too strongly urged that any child suffering from a sore throat or any hoarseness of the voice should be seen by a doctor at once. Parents of young children would be well advised to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Town Council for immunisation against this disease.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of clinical material (Sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Cases a motor ambulance is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital.

For Non-Infectious Cases. Two motor ambulances under the control of two local Committees, which are affiliated to the Home Service Ambulance Committee, and kept respectively at the Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street (Telephone No. 5482), and in the yard at rear of Fire Station, Lye.

These facilities are adequate, and there are no restrictions as to distance or boundary.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL. The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organisation, employs two Nurses, whose services are available for residents in the Stourbridge and Pedmore Areas. The Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association, also a voluntary organization, employs a nurse.

(b) There is no provision for Professional Nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases treated at home, excepting Ophthalmia Neonatorum, cases of which are attended by the Infant Welfare Centre Nurse.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee. The Town Council own the premises occupied by the Centre, which were enlarged and modernised during 1937.

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 4-30 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10 o'clock.

Ladies of the Committee assist at the Welfare Centre in helping to weigh the babies and giving tea to the mothers.

Milk and other foods are given in necessitous cases or supplied at a low cost. The County Milk Scheme for mothers and infants has been adopted by this Welfare Committee.

An Assistant Medical Officer of the County attends at the Centre on Tuesday afternoons, and on the first and third Wednesday afternoons in each month.

An Orthopaedic Clinic, under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council, is held daily at the Centre. Mr. Naughton Dunn, of Birmingham, attends the Clinic twice every month.

The Ante-natal Clinic was opened in October, 1927, and is held twice a month. Dr. Eileen Bulmer attends the Clinic on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the month. An Ante-natal Clinic is also held at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 10 a.m.

The attendances at these Clinics are being well maintained, they are proving a great help not only to expectant mothers but also to local Medical Practitioners.

A Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital Stourbridge. The Centre is under the control of the Corbett Hospital. Grants are made by the Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Councils. The Medical Officer attends on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.—the former for women and children and the latter for men. Intermediate Treatment for women is by arrangement. For men each evening except Sunday and Monday.

Clinics for Immunisation of Children against Diphtheria are held by arrangement at the Town Hall, Stourbridge, and the Infant Welfare Centre, Lye.

The Clinics are provided free by the Borough Council.

A Clinic for Investigation of Mental Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, each Friday, at 1-45 p.m. This is under the control of the County Council and the Medical Superintendent of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove, is in charge of it.

The School Clinic is held every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon in the special building attached to Enville Street School. It is under the control of the County Council and one of the Assistant County Medical Officers is in charge.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Dispensary, Greenfield Avenue, Stourbridge. It is provided by the Worcestershire County Council.

The Health Visitor (Miss E. E. Noke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Certs. Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers, also Diploma for Health Visitors) reports as follows :—

Notification of Births received from County Medical Officer :—

Males, 137; Females, 143; Still Births, 9. Total Number of Live Births, 280.

Of the Births notified, 67 were at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home Stourbridge, 6 at Sandfield House Maternity Home, Wordsley, and 7 at other Nursing Homes.

Home Visiting :—

Number of Primary Visits paid to Infants	...	269
Revisits to Infants under one year	...	1234
Revisits to children between one and five	...	2477

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centre and Toddlers' Clinic, January 1st to December 31st, 1937 :—

Number of Infants brought to the Centre for the first time	...	...	...	...	255
Total Number of Children attending the Centre					699

Total attendances at Centre :—

Children under one year	...	...	3343
Children between the ages of one and five	...	...	2521

A special Toddlers Clinic, with Dr. R. L. Corlett in attendance, is held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month. This is intended for the supervision of the health of children between the ages of one and five years.

Ante-Natal Clinic :—

Number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic for the first time	...	...	88
Total Number attending	...	...	293

Ante-Natal Home Visits :—

Total Number of Visits	165
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Infant Life Protection Act, 1908.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Three children have been under supervision during the year. One child has now left the district.

All the homes are satisfactory.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases have been attended during the year. Each child has made a good recovery.

County Milk Scheme.

Under the combined County Scheme for milk for mothers and children, applications had been made on behalf of 43 expectant and nursing mothers, and 104 children, for 2,012 pints of milk, 940 lb. of dried milk and bottles of emulsion.

(e) Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of beds.</i>
North Worcs. Isolation.	Hayley Green, near Halesowen.	Infectious Diseases	60
"	"	Tuberculosis	17
"	"	Smallpox	...
Corbett	Amblecote, near Stourbridge.	General	...
Sutton Road Institution	Kidderminster	Maternity	...
"	"	Poor Law	225
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home.	Stourbridge	Maternity	...

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green. Cases are admitted also from the Boroughs of Halesowen, Kidderminster and Bewdley, the Urban District of Stourport and the Kidderminster Rural District.

This Hospital has three wards for Infectious Diseases, containing 59 beds, 29 for males and 30 for females, and one ward with one bed for Enteric Fever. The Tuberculosis block has two wards, with 14 beds, and three shelters for males. At the Smallpox Hospital there are two wards, each containing 4 beds.

Sandfield House (Wordsley) is now a Public Assistance Institution under the Staffordshire County Council.

The Corbett Hospital, which is a General Hospital, is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, but is used by inhabitants of this Borough. It is a voluntary hospital, and has 34 beds for males, 30 for females, and 24 for children. There is also one isolation bed, and six private beds. The cases admitted are approximately 60 per cent surgical and 40 per cent medical.

Towards the end of the year a Special Department for the treatment of Hay Fever was commenced. Although it was not started until the end of the usual season for this complaint, some very satisfactory results were obtained.

One male and one female bed are allotted to the Venereal Disease Treatment Centre, for use when necessary. The small ward formerly used for maternity cases has been abolished, because of the provision of the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, as, with the exception of extremely abnormal cases, very little maternity work is done.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum requiring In-patient treatment are sent either to Kidderminster or to Dudley General Hospitals, while arrangements are made by the Health Visitor for treatment of other cases at home.

Cases requiring medical attention are sent by the Public Assistance Officer to the Sutton Road Institution, Kidderminster, a Home with 120 beds for males and 91 for females, and 14 cots. In addition there is a Maternity Ward with 6 beds and 4 cots, while 191 beds are provided for vagrants.

Cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia are treated at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, by arrangement with the County Council.

Cases of combined Pregnancy and Venereal Disease requiring In-patient treatment are admitted to Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.

Tuberculosis cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are sent by the County Council to Knightwick, Hill Top, Bromsgrove or Hayley Green. Orthopaedic cases in children—Tuberculosis or otherwise—are sent by arrangement to the "Woodlands," Northfield, Birmingham.

A special clinic for Ear, Nose and Throat cases was established at the Corbett Hospital, under Mr. Bernard G. Goodwin, F.R.C.S. Similiar cases are also treated at the Queen's, General, and Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, Birmingham.

In addition, considerable use is made by inhabitants of the Birmingham Hospitals for all purposes.

Special departments for the treatment of Ophthalmic Diseases are held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Thursdays, at 9 a.m., and at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on Thursdays, at 2 p.m.; for the treatment of Orthopaedic conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Mondays, at 10-0 a.m. and for Ear, Nose and Throat conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Legislation in Force.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, ETC.

The following are the Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with the date of adoption :—

Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1825
Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	...	1894
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, 6th April,				
				1891, 26th Nov. 1901, and 30th Aug., 1909
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (parts)				16th Feb., 1910
Public Health Act, 1925, (except Secs. 21, 22 and 44)				30th Aug. 1927
ditto				(Secs. 21, 22 and 44) 26th Sep. 1927

BYELAWS.

Offensive Trades	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Blood Boiler			Leather Dresser	
Blood Drier			Size Maker	
Bone Boiler			Soap Boiler	
Fat Melter or Fat Extractor			Tallow Melter	
Fellmonger			Tanner	
Glue Maker			Tripe Boiler	
Gut Scraper				
Markets and Fairs	...	...	...	14th Aug. 1867.
Markets	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890.
W.C.'s to be supplied with Water	...	...	...	29th July 1895.
Nuisances	...	...	...	20th Oct. 1911.
Public Baths	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Libraries	...	...	...	13th Oct. 1916.
Mortuary	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Hackney Carriages	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Omnibuses	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
Cleansing of Footpaths, etc., Earthclosets and	...	...	...
Cesspools	...	...	...	10th Jan. 1917.
New Streets and Buildings	...	...	...	7th April, 1927.
Behaviour of Passengers in Vehicles	...	...	...	2nd Feb. 1927.
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	2nd April 1930.
Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	9th April 1930.

MORTUARY.

During the year the bodies of twenty-three people were conveyed to the Mortuary, the causes of death being as follows :—

Natural causes	7 residents,	4 non-residents,
Accidents	1 resident,	4 non-residents,
Suicides	4 residents,	3 non-residents,
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 11

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There has been no alteration in the water supply.

The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

There is no filtration, the water being pumped direct into mains. There is, however, a Reservoir at Doctor's Hill, Stourbridge, serving to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir.

Following are the results of the analyses of two samples of the Town water, taken in April and November respectively. Samples are now examined each month.

	No. 1	No. 2
<i>Physical Characters :</i>	<i>Clear.</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>
	<i>very slight brown.</i>	<i>Deposit very slight brown.</i>
<i>Chemical Examination. (Results in parts per 100,000).</i>		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	Trace	Trace.
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	51	52
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	44	45
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	9.9	9.9
Hardness, Permanent	14	14
„ Temporary	13	14
„ Total	27	28
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0006	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.9	1.0
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	0.006	0.006
Toxic metals	None	None

Bacteriological Examination :

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar :

(a) In two days at 37°C.	... nil per 1 m.l.	nil per 1 m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C.	... 8 per 1 m.l.	50 per 1 m.l.
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	... nil	nil
	per 100 m.l.	per 100 m.l.
B. Typhosus	... ditto	ditto
Cl. Welchii	... nil	nil
	per 250 m.l.	per 250 m.l.
Streptococci	... not detected.	not detected.

The supply is obtained from three boreholes : (1) Coalbournbrook, 501 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds ; (2) Mill Meadow, 350 feet deep, sandstone ; (3) Tack, (Wordsley), 210 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds. The latter two are standbys. Nos. 1 and 2 are in the Urban District of Amblecote and No. 3 in the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. A considerable number of houses supplement the water supply by having rain-water cisterns on their premises, many being underground. The recently erected Council Houses have underground rainwater cisterns.

Several houses and three farms at Pedmore have a private water supply, the water being from two underground springs, connected with field drains to a collecting chamber from which pipe lines lead to the houses. In addition, two surface water drains were also connected. Samples of the water taken during December from two of the houses and one from the collecting chamber were submitted to the County Bacteriologist. The reports on two of the samples were to the effect that though of good quality chemically, the existence of large numbers of coli-aerogenes organisms indicated that the water was polluted and unfit for drinking. Some of the organisms were B. Coli of faecal type. The report on the third sample stated that the water was unfit for drinking and that from the nature of the organisms present it was probable that the pollution was derived from surface water.

A sample was also taken at the same time from a spring in the same locality supplying one residence only ; this sample was fit for drinking.

The supply was chlorinated, the water being tested each day to ascertain the extent of chlorination, and at the same time I wrote to the users advising them to boil the water before drinking.

In the course of a Supplementary Report to the Public Health Committee in January, 1938, I stated, *inter alia* :

“In view of the facts that the ‘reservoir’ is shallow and the surface of the water is about 12 feet below the ground, and that some of the water finding its way into the reservoir is surface water from pasture land, I consider that its use should be discontinued for domestic purposes. The Stourbridge and District Water Board main is available, as some houses adjoining those using the private supply are already connected to the Stourbridge main.”

During the early part of the year, however, the surface water drains to the reservoir were cut off and the springs properly fenced round, which resulted in an improvement in the water supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Stourbridge area was sewered in 1887 and the Lye and Wollescote area about 1900. The Main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board, consisting of representatives of the Stourbridge and Amblecote Councils. The Sewers in

Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

With the exception of a few houses situate on the outskirts, all the dwelling houses are provided with W.C.'s and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. A number of houses have cesspools, most of these being recently erected.

Apart from development of new Housing Estates, no extension of sewers has taken place during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

During the year 1932, the River Stour was cleaned out under the Bridge at the Borough boundary and Amblecote (Staffs.), the work being undertaken by the County Councils of Worcestershire and Staffordshire. The remains of an old dam at Messrs. Bradley's Ironworks were removed. These works have been effectual in minimising flooding.

Closest Accommodation.

Most of the houses are provided with Water Closets, the exceptions being cottages situate in localities where there are no sewers. There are a number of slop W.C.'s but these are gradually being converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus. The Sanitary Inspector's Report gives details of conversions and additions.

Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour and is dealt with by controlled tipping, being spread over small areas, covered and levelled. At the end of the year there were three tips in use, viz., Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street; Wollaston Hall Estate; Bromley Street, Lye. Tipping at Hadcroft Brickworks and Rufford's Brickworks was discontinued during the year.

Ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The few privies are cleared as required, the contents being buried. Cesspools are emptied and the contents either tipped down sewers or spread over farm land.

Two motor freighters were in use at the beginning of the year. During 1937 another was purchased which is used for refuse collection on three days in each week, and for cleansing of street gullies at other times. All these vehicles are very satisfactory. The other conveyances are horse-drawn.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement as required by article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1935.

The Number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspection of houses and premises	...	...	...	551
Inspections under Housing Regulations	...	...	...	233
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	...	...	...	420
Overcrowding	...	...	...	33
Houses measured for Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...	2282
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	127
Visits <i>re</i> Tuberculosis	...	...	...	30
Re-Inspections and Re-Visits	...	...	...	3280
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	2555
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	66
Workshops	...	...	...	57
Vans	...	...	...	21
Bakehouses	...	...	...	34
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	...	17
Food Stores	...	...	...	207
Pool	...	...	...	1
Premises infested with Rats or Insects	...	...	...	21
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	24
Schools	...	...	...	6
Corporation Refuse Tips	...	...	...	8
Shops	...	...	...	87
Pig-killing on unlicensed premises	...	...	...	2
Petrol Stores	...	...	...	33
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	170
Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	131
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	439
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	295

Shops.

The operation of the Shops Acts is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Smoke Abatement.

Byelaws were adopted in April, 1930, limiting the emission of black smoke to three minutes in the half-hour.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Negotiations for the acquisition of an area of land for the purpose of extending the Corporation Swimming Baths were completed during the year, and plans for the necessary alterations prepared and approved. A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held in February, 1938, and the scheme was approved. The alterations have been started and the baths will be ready for the 1939 season.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Borough.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council House and 24 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. During the year 22 houses, including the Council house, were treated, the treatment consisting of fumigation with sulphur and saltpetre, also with proprietary fumigants, followed by spraying with various insecticides, to which Ortho-dichlorobenzene is added. Hydrogen Cyanide is not used.

The furniture and household effects of persons moving to Council houses from houses showing any evidence of infestation being suitably treated, and in some cases furniture has been destroyed by burning. Such tenants are subsequently visited to make certain that no infestation has arisen at the new premises.

The work is carried out by the Local Authority.

Schools.

It was neither necessary to close any School during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable disease, nor to issue any certificate to cover decreased attendances at any School owing to the prevalence of infectious disease.

At five Schools I was requested to swab some of the scholars following cases of Diphtheria, in each instance with negative results.

Notices are sent to schools giving particulars of scholars from houses where cases of notifiable infectious diseases have occurred, and requests made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified period.

The water supply generally at the schools is ample, all the schools being supplied direct from the water mains.

The Sanitary Conveniences at one School were improved during the year.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Burial Grounds. There are six Burial Grounds in use in the district ; Stourbridge Cemetery ; Lye Cemetery ; the Roman Catholic Cemetery ; and the Churchyards of Old Swinford, Wollaston, and Pedmore.

There are also "closed" graveyards at the Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church and Friends Meeting House.

Sunday funerals at the Stourbridge Cemetery are not allowed, except in cases receiving sanction of the Town Council, through me.

HOUSING.

390 New houses were erected during the year, 152 of them by the Local Authority under the Housing Act, to re-house persons displaced by Slum Clearance.

Good progress has been made during the year in Slum Clearance, 39 Demolition Orders on Dwelling Houses, 1 Demolition Order for an Obstructive Building and 3 Closing Orders being made during the year.

During the year representations were made in respect of 16 areas consisting of 131 houses with an ascertained population of 455. Clearance Orders were made early in 1938 for 9 of the areas, when 10 of the houses and one lock-up shop were included in two Compulsory Purchase Orders.

During the year a Ministry of Health Inquiry was held in respect of 5 areas declared during the previous year. The Confirming Orders in respect of these 5 areas, viz., Corser Street; Heath Lane; Summer Street; Underwoods Buildings, Union Street, Stourbridge and Union Street, Lye, being received in June. Two houses were excluded from the Confirming Orders; one was an owner-occupied shop and the other a house which had been demolished at the time of the Inquiry.

Extensive repairs have been carried out at houses, details being given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

The total number of dwellings either demolished or lost by conversion during 1937, was 105.

Three new cases of overcrowding were reported and the necessary action taken. The total number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year was 28, 25 being in the course of Slum Clearance operations, the number of persons concerned in such cases being 175. At the end of the year the number of dwellings overcrowded was 192, occupied by 229 families comprising 1314 persons.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**

(b) **Meat and other Foods.**

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

This Borough is not an authority under the Food and Drugs Acts.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Small Pox.

No case was reported during the year. No cases have occurred in the Borough since 1931.

Scarlet Fever.

The type of disease was again of a mild character. Only 29 cases were reported during the year, as compared with 62 in the previous year and 123 during 1935. The cases were of a sporadic nature.

Removal to hospital took place in 23 instances, or 79.31 per cent. of the cases notified. There was no death from the disease.

The cases were distributed fairly evenly throughout the Borough.

There were 18 cases in children of school age, but outbreaks were not marked in any particular school.

The cases occurred in 25 households, one of the patients being an inmate of the Cottage Homes. In one instance two cases occurred in one house, both being notified on the same day, and three others occurred in another house, these being reported at a weekly interval. Four of the patients resided in Council Houses.

The bedroom accommodation at the houses where the cases occurred was :—2 bedrooms, 6 cases; 3 bedrooms, 21 cases; 4 bedrooms, 1 case.

Diphtheria.

Eighty-one cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year as compared with 33 cases in the previous year and 110 in 1935. Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year with increased numbers in May, October and December. The type of disease was only slightly less severe than during the two previous years, there being 3 deaths from the disease, giving a percentage case mortality of 3.70; the case mortality for 1936 was 15.15 and in 1935 was 16.3.

Of the three deaths one was a boy who died within a few hours of admission to hospital, and one was a male aged 62 who died of pneumonia with post-diphtheritic paralysis.

The total number of patients admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital was 73 or 90.1 per cent. In the eight instances where the patients received domiciliary treatment there were proper facilities for isolation and nursing.

In four instances two cases occurred in one house. In one instance three cases, and in another instance four cases occurred in one house. In all except the latter instance the subsequent patients were notified to me within a day or so of the primary case, but in the other instance three cases were notified in October and the fourth in December before either of the others had been discharged from the Isolation Hospital.

One boy was found to have a positive swab while on holiday outside the Borough and was removed to his home for treatment. Some two months after notification he was found still to be positive and was taken to the Isolation Hospital for removal of his tonsils. He completely recovered afterwards.

Seven members of one family were removed to the Isolation Hospital during the year. The first child was notified on 19th June, and two others on 2nd and 3rd July. Swabs of the remaining members were taken with negative results. On 2nd and 10th August two other children were reported to me as suffering from the disease and I took further swabs when it was found that the mother and one boy were positive, and were removed. One month after the discharge of the mother a further child developed clinical Diphtheria and it was found that the mother again gave a positive reaction and she was again taken to Hospital, arrangements being made for the rest of the family to enter for the time being a Public Assistance Institution. It is probable that all these cases arose from one girl who had a Diphtheritic Vaginitis.

At the request of the Head Teachers concerned, some of the scholars at five schools were swabbed, with negative results.

Twenty-three cases occurred in houses with two bedrooms, 56 in houses with three bedrooms, one in a house with four bedrooms, and one in a house with five bedrooms. Twenty-eight of the patients, including the family mentioned above, resided in Council Houses.

There was a considerable increase in the number of cases as compared with 1936, but the case mortality was much lower. The cases vary very much in severity and I cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity of obtaining medical advice in any doubtful case of sore throat or hoarse voice; early treatment is essential. At the same time prevention is always better than cure and efficient immunisation will prevent the disease in the great majority of cases. All children should be immunised as soon as they reach the age of one year,

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, cases of Puerperal Fever ceased to be notifiable as such on and after the 1st October, and became notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever were reported, one on 2nd January, and one on the 19th of the same month, each being removed to Hospital.

The first case was a young woman. A doctor was called in on the twelfth day after the confinement, when the patient was found already to be moribund. The other case recovered.

Thirteen cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Nine occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home. Four of them being non-residents of the Borough. Five patients were removed to hospitals, two of them being from the Mary Stevens Maternity Home.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Eight cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred during the year, three (of whom two were non-residents of the Borough) being at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home.

Three of the children were admitted to Hospital for treatment, and three others were attended by the Health Visitor.

Each child recovered without any impairment of vision.

Acute Rheumatism.

Cases of this disease are still occurring, especially in the East side of the Borough, where the subsoil is of clay. Some have cardiac complications and others chorea. With the help of neighbouring Local Authorities, the local Education Committee is endeavouring to form a special school for rheumatic children.

Polio-Myelitis.

No case was reported during the year.

General.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has been similar to what it was in 1936; 163 cases were reported compared with 148 cases in 1936.

Diphtheria is the disease which has caused the most concern, as some of the cases are very severe. Early use of anti-toxin is urged even in doubtful cases, and is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Borough Council. Doubtful throats and nasal passages are swabbed as a routine. Contacts in the house are all swabbed and contacts at school are also swabbed if there are more than three cases in a class. Specimens are examined by the County Bacteriologist. Immunisation against Diphtheria has been practised as in previous years.

Anti-scarlatinal serum is not provided free, but it is used in severe cases. In the Isolation Hospital, it is used in most cases; undoubtedly it is useful in preventing or alleviating complications and in shortening the period in hospital. Prontosil is now being used in many Streptococcal conditions and appears to be replacing anti-scarlatinal serum. It is very efficacious.

Cases of Streptococcol Tonsillitis have been frequent and undoubtedly mild cases spread the infection, causing Scarlet Fever in one patient and perhaps Puerperal Fever in another.

Sputum from many suspected chest cases is examined for Tubercle Bacilli.

Most cases of Diphtheria are removed to hospital. The removal of Scarlet Fever cases depends on whether efficient isolation and proper nursing can be carried out at home ; in many cases it is difficult—the patients are then removed.

Fumigation of rooms which have been occupied by patients suffering from infectious disease is carried out upon request, and where the patient has been treated at home. Bed clothing is always disinfected.

All Scarlet Fever patients admitted to hospital are immunised against Diphtheria before discharge.

During the year 1937, 517 children were immunised against Diphtheria. As in previous years I have used Alum Precipitated Toxoid, but during the Autumn the manufacturers stated that they considered that more efficient immunisation resulted by the giving of two injections with a fortnight's interval between them. I have now adopted this method as a routine. 247 of the 517 children immunised received two injections ; 15 children failed to attend for the second injection.

Of the children who suffered from Diphtheria, six had been immunised, two of them only a month before the onset of the disease, while each of the others had received a single injection of A.P.T. between 18 months and two years before. Complete recoveries took place in each instance.

The notification of pneumonia is not in all respects satisfactory ; although it is clear which types of the disease should be reported, it is not always easy to diagnose them clinically and I believe that some cases are reported which need not be, and vice versa, cases which need not be reported, sometimes are. Further, it is difficult to know how to utilise the information when it is received, beyond seeing that adequate nursing provision is made. The services of the local Nursing Association are used in some of these cases and are much appreciated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The following tables give details of the Notification of Infectious Diseases during the year.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	1	6	7	—	2	—	2	4	1	1	2	29
Diphtheria	—	1	1	3	15	9	7	8	3	18	4	12	81
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	3	—	3	—	2	1	—	1	—	2	13
Pneumonia	5	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	20
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	2	2	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	8
TOTALS ...	11	7	15	12	20	12	10	15	10	24	8	19	163

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS,) DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No. of Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upwards.			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	1	1	1	14	5	—	5	—	—	—	29	23	—
Diphtheria	—	1	2	3	3	37	22	6	5	1	1	—	81	73	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	—	—	13	5	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	6	2	4	3	20	11	5
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	4	10	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	—
Totals ...	9	4	3	4	4	52	30	8	30	6	6	7	163	117	9

Table Showing Incidence of Infectious Diseases in Different Parts of the Borough.

Disease.	Stourbridge.	Lye and Wollescote.	Pedmore
Scarlet Fever ...	22	6	1
Diphtheria ...	74	7	—
Puerperal Fever ...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	12	1	—
Pneumonia ...	18	2	—
Erysipelas ...	4	6	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	1	1
Totals ...	138	23	2

Cancer.

There were 65 deaths from Cancer as compared with 47 in 1936, 31 being males and 34 females. In the males, the growth occurred in the alimentary canal in 17 cases, of these it was in the stomach in 5 cases. The average age in these was 64 years. In the females, the alimentary canal was affected in 10 instances, 1 of which was in the stomach. The average age in these cases was 65 years. The breast was the site of election in 4 cases, the uterus 3 cases, and the ovary 2 cases.

There was no relation between the organs affected and the occupation.

Men engaged in the production of Tar at the Corporation Gas Works are examined quarterly for the occurrence of warts or suspicious evidence of Tar Cancer.

Treatment by radium and deep X-rays is provided for suitable cases at some of the Birmingham Hospitals. More use is being made of these methods of treatment.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken by the Council under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the 1936 Act.

There is a Voluntary Blind Institution in the Borough providing work for afflicted persons, but there is no Institution for treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1937.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1	...	...	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1
5	...	...	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	4	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
25	...	...	7	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
35	...	...	3	2	—	—	3	2	—	—
45	...	...	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
55	...	...	5	2	—	—	4	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	22	12	3	7	10	6	—	2

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.46 per 1000 of population as compared with 0.83 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.057 as compared with 0.086 in 1936.

There were five non-notified Tuberculosis deaths, or 27.8% of the total deaths from the disease. Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient and there was no occasion for the taking of any action or proceedings for refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of Tuberculosis in any particular occupation or area in the Borough.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1937.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1937 ...	73	63	22	21
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	18	9	3	6
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	4	3	—	1
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	97	75	25	28
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	18	14	2	4
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	79	61	23	24

It will be noticed that the numbers remaining on the register at the end of the year are approximately the same as at the beginning ; this is a little disappointing, but it is hoped that with better housing conditions and improved working facilities these figures will improve. It is encouraging to note that the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis fell considerably in 1937.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEOFFREY DUDLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	330
(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes	...	386
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	233
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	311
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	178
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	152

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	63
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under sections, 9 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	6

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	31
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	43
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	53

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	5

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(A) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	192
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	229
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	1314
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	28
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	175

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	42	5	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	38	2	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	11	—	—
Total ...	91	7	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	12	—	—
Not separate for sexes	8	6	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-houses. (S.101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	13	21	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1937

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a Report of the work done in my Department during the year 1937, this being my Thirty-Seventh Annual Report.

COMPLAINTS.

236 complaints were received, as compared with 268 in the previous year.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The number of inspections made during the year was 10,093 against 10,586 during the previous year. The inspections were as follows:— General Re-inspections of house and premises, 551; Inspections under Housing Regulations, 233; Re-inspections under Housing Regulations, 420; General Re-inspections, 3,280; Houses measured for Overcrowding Survey, 2,282; Infectious Diseases, 127; Tuberculosis, 30; Slaughter-houses, 2,555; Dairies and Cowsheds, 66; Factories and Workshops, 57; Bakehouses, 34; Food Stores, 207; Offensive Trade Premises, 17; Shops, 87; Vermin Infestation, Rats and Insects, 21; Overcrowding, 33; Smoke Nuisances, 24; Vans, 21; Schools, 6; Refuse Tips, 8; Petroleum, 33; Pool, 1.

The drains at 81 premises were tested during the year.

The number of sanitary defects, nuisances and contraventions of your Bye-laws was 8,782. The number of defects remaining unattended to at the end of 1936 was 9,665, making a total of 18,447. During the year 5,836 defects were written off as having been remedied, leaving 12,611 insanitary conditions either unabated or not taken off the records at the end of the year.

NOTICES.

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 170, mostly in the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs.

The Notices are set out in the following table with particulars as to the premises affected :—

	<i>No. of Notices</i>		<i>No. of Houses or Premises affected.</i>	
General Defects of Houses	...	71	...	117
Sanitary Conveniences	...	5	...	15
Defective Rain Water Spouting	...	4	...	7
Overcrowding	...	3	...	3
No. "Permitted No." in Rent Book	...	6	...	6
Water in Cellar	...	2	...	2
Cleansing Rooms after Tuberculosis	...	6	...	6
Dangerous Buildings	...	2	...	2
Drain Defects	...	17	...	38
Unfit Water Supply	...	2	...	25
Defective Ashpits	...	3	...	10
Pig Keeping, Nuisance	...	1	...	1
Domestic Animals, Nuisance	...	1	...	1
Obstruction to Repairs	...	2	...	2
Contravention of Closing Orders	...	1	...	1
Accumulation of Refuse	...	2	...	2
Slaughterhouse. Defective	...	1	...	1
Meat Regulations, Contraventions	...	4	...	4
Vans, Nuisances	...	1	...	5
Milk and Dairies Orders, Contraventions	...	6	...	6
Factories & Workshops Act, Contraventions	...	7	...	7
Rat Infestation	...	1	...	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	3	...	3
Watercourse obstructed	...	1	...	1
Petroleum, Storage without license	...	3	...	3
Shops Acts, Contraventions	...	15	...	15
		<hr/> 170 <hr/>		<hr/> 284 <hr/>

In addition to these Notices, 26 matters were referred to the Borough Surveyor and 7 to the Water Board.

At the end of 1936 there were 92 Notices uncomplied with, these, with 170 served during 1937, make a total of 262 in the Record Book. During 1937, 131 Notices were complied with ; in 51 instances Statutory Notices were served ; the work in respect of 28 Notices was in progress at the end of the year, and 52 were outstanding.

The Statutory Notices served were :—

<i>Kind of Notice.</i>	<i>No. of Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Houses or Premises Affected.</i>
HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—		
Notice before entry	31	31
Notice of Clearance Order	27	66
To appear before Council	108	53
Demolition Orders	85	43
Closing Orders	7	3
Determination of Closing Orders	5	5
Notice to repair	5	5
Notice of intention to do work in default	2	2
Demand for payment of Expenses	3	6
Declaring Expenses to be payable by instalments	16	8
Requisition for Information	39	136
Notice to Occupier to Quit	61	61
OVERCROWDING PROVISIONS :—		
Requisition for statement of Persons Sleeping in House	1	1
Notice to Abate overcrowding	2	2
Temporary Licence to exceed Permitted Number	1	1
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1875 and 1936 :—		
Abatement of Nuisances	32	31
Provision of Dust Bins	9	9
Accumulation of Refuse	2	2
BYELAWS, TENTS, VANS, ETC. : —		
For Water Supply and Privy Accommodation	1	1
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION ACT, 1890 :—		
For disinfection	2	2
	<hr/> 439	<hr/> 468

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The Trades carried on are :—

Fish frying	28
Tripe Boiling	9
Hide and Skin Dealer	1
Leather Dresser	1

Two fish friers gave up business during the year.

Two businesses, viz., one fish frying and one tripe boiling, are subject to annual permissions and were renewed during the year,

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Not complying with Notice to abate a Nuisance	After adjournment, withdrawn when work was done, upon payment of costs.
Not quitting house after Clearance Order.	To quit within 28 days.
Not Closing Shop for serving of customers on half-holiday.	Fined £1.
Not complying with Notice to abate a Nuisance.	Order to carry out repairs, etc., within 4 months, and pay costs.
Not quitting house after Clearance Order.	To quit within 28 days.
Rag and Bone Dealer distributing toys from vehicle.	Fined £5.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 21 Bakehouses in occupation, 14 in Stourbridge and 7 in Lye. During the year one bakehouse ceased being used. The businesses of two others were removed to other premises, in each case old buildings being adapted. A complaint was received from the Factory Inspector about the dirty condition of one place. This received attention.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

There were 236 Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, as follows :—

Baking	21	Horse Shoeing ...	1
Basket Making ...	1	Jewellery and Watch	
Boot Repairing ...	28	Repairing ...	8
Brewing	4	Joinery	15
Bucket Handle Making	1	Laundry	2
Chain Making ...	2	Malting	2
Cabinet Making and		Millinery	10
Upholstering ...	8	Motor Repairs ...	14
Carriage Building and		Plumbing, etc. ...	6
Wheelwrights ...	5	Picture Framing ...	3
Cycle Repairs ...	6	Reflector Making ...	1
Chamois Leather		Saddlery	3
Dressing	2	Sheet Metal Cutting ...	10
Dressmaking ...	27	Smithy (General) ...	3
Electrical Engineering		Stained Glass ...	1
and Wireless ...	7	Stone Masonry ...	2
Fire-lighter Making ...	1	Tailoring	27
Food Preparing ...	5	Tin and Whitesmithy	2
Frost Cog Making ...	8		

The following complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year :—

- (1) Women's Sanitary Convenience without door fastener or means of artificial lighting.
- (2) Limewashing only done once a year as factory is in use only from October to April.
- (3) Insufficient number of sanitary conveniences provided.
- (4) No sanitary convenience provided.
- (5) Sanitary Convenience not kept in cleanly state.
- (6) Bakehouse in dirty condition.
- (7) Means of artificial lighting not provided in the conveniences.
- (8) Conveniences not provided with seats.
- (9) Convenience in dirty condition ; no intervening space to workplace.
- (10) Convenience dirty ; flushing cistern out of order ; no means of artificial lighting.
- (11) Convenience dirty ; no means of artificial lighting.
- (12) Fasteners not provided to doors of Women's conveniences ; one door broken.
- (13) Sanitary Convenience for women required a new wooden seat ; no means of lighting after dark.

The causes of complaints were remedied in every case, excepting the provision of artificial means of lighting.

During the year three additional W.C.'s were provided, one privy converted to a W.C., 4 urinals were put in, and at one factory 4 additional W.C.'s were in course of erection. These were done after informal action.

OUTWORKERS.

Twenty lists were received containing the names of 60 Outworkers, 36 of whom resided outside the Borough. In addition, three lists were received from other Authorities containing the names of 5 Outworkers resident in the Borough.

When visiting a certain workshop it was found that the occupier was an Outworker. Objection was made by the firm giving out the work to the inclusion of this Outworker, but after correspondence the name was added to the list of Outworkers.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 2 Common Lodging Houses.

The following are the returns of the number of lodgers. (The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied).

Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 and under 21.		Lodgers under 10 years of age.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
5842	148	—	—	—	—	5990

These figures show an increase of 49 on the previous year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There was no change of occupation of any slaughterhouse. The total number is still 24 ; 14 of which are subject to annual licence, the licences in respect of 8 being issued on the understanding that no claim for compensation will be made in the event of renewal of the licence being refused should a Public Abattoir be provided in the Borough. Three of the licences issued are in respect of one slaughterhouse.

Total number of visits made during the year to slaughterhouses was 2,555, and to food stores, 207. In addition, visits are paid to shops. There are three places where cooked meat is prepared for sale and these are frequently inspected.

Applications for renewals of the licences for two slaughterhouses, which had lapsed, were refused.

At the Public Health Committee in November, a recommendation was made to the Council as follows:—"Your Committee have given careful consideration to the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, so far as they relate to the Slaughter of Sheep, etc., and have resolved that Section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, should be applied to sheep, ewes, wethers, rams, lambs, goats, and kids within the Area of the Borough. They therefore recommend : That the Town Clerk be instructed to give the Statutory Notice of the intention of the Council as the Local Authority to consider a resolution to this effect."

A resolution to this effect was considered and adopted by the Council at the Council Meeting in January 1938.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed ...	1109	343	79	8363	3440
Number inspected ...	1087	335	77	6815	3357
All diseases, except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	4	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	37	12	—	76	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.40	3.58	—	1.17	0.33
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	1	—	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	28	16	—	—	215
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.66	4.77	—	—	6.55

The percentages of slaughtered animals inspected were :—oxen, 97.93 ; calves, 97.47 ; sheep and lambs, 81.49 ; pigs, 97.53.

Total weight of mean condemned was approximately 2 tons 13 cwt.

In addition, 18 chickens were condemned and surrendered, and 1 ton 6 cwt. of beetroot was seized and condemned by a Justice.

The following describes the meat which was condemned and voluntarily surrendered :—

Tuberculosis	...	...	Oxen : 1 carcase and offals ; 26 heads ; 16 lungs ; 8 livers ; 1 intestines and 1 stomach.
			Pigs : 5 carcasses and offals ; 186 heads ; 42 frys ; 47 mesenteries ; 29 intestines and 3 necks.
Distoma Hepaticum	...	...	17 ox livers ; 65 sheep livers.
Echinococci	...	...	7 ox livers ; 1 ox lungs ; 1 pig's fry.
Pneumonia	...	...	3 pigs' frys.
Extensive bruising	...	...	3 sheep carcasses and offals.
Jaundice	...	...	1 sheep carcase and offals.
Swine Erysipelas	...	...	1 pig carcase and offals.
Strongylosis	...	...	7 sheep livers.
Suffocation	...	...	1 pig carcase and offals.
Cirrhosis	...	...	6 ox livers ; 5 pig livers.
Abscesses	...	...	19 ox livers ; 1 ox lungs.

Two pigs were slaughtered on private premises.

Fifty-four licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act were issued during the year. Three licences issued in the previous year were not renewed, three new ones were granted.

There were four contraventions of the Meat Regulations ; these were 3 of meat exposed in open windows of shops and one failure to give proper notice of slaughter. The offender in each case was warned. There were also several defects at a slaughterhouse, including defective paving and unsatisfactory state of the lairage ; these were remedied after informal notice.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 131 names of Milk Dealers as follows :—

Producers	...	...	...	...	16
Retailers in the Borough	...	...	...	...	38
Retailers from outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	25
Retailers of Sterilized	...	...	...	...	45
Wholesale Traders	...	...	...	...	7

One retailer was registered during the year. One farm changed occupation. One retailer took new premises which were registered. Several retailers ceased business.

Two cows at one dairy were certified as suffering from Tuberculosis and were destroyed. One in June and one in September.

At the end of the year the number of cows in the Borough was approximately 241.

Licenses held in the Borough under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders :—

				<i>Residing Inside.</i>	<i>Residing Outside.</i>	
Pasteurised—Producer	...	...	...	I	...	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	—	...	3
Accredited Bottler	...	...	...	2	...	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	2	...	2
Tuberculin Tested Bottler	...	...	...	I	...	—
„ Retailer	...	...	...	3	...	2

The licence held by one Accredited Milk Bottler is issued by the Worcestershire County Council as he is a producer.

Sixty-six visits were made, mostly to cowsheds. A number of dirt tests were made all of which were satisfactory.

The “Producer Pasteuriser” ceased selling milk under this designation, but continued to pasteurise the milk he sold.

Forty-seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, as follows :—

Ungraded	...	...	...	...	7
Ungraded, for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3
Accredited	...	...	...	...	14
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	20

Ten of the samples of Pasteurised milk were taken at schools and eight taken at various points of a pasteurising plant.

HOUSING.

233 houses were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. 112 in Stourbridge, 121 in Lye.

Ten had more than two persons per room, 4 in Stourbridge, and 6 in Lye. The percentages of houses with more than two persons per room, of the houses inspected, being: Whole Area, 4.3; Stourbridge, 3.6; and Lye, 5. Four houses with 2 rooms were occupied, two by 5 persons, the others by 6 and 7 persons respectively. At five houses with 3 bedrooms, two had 7 persons, two had 8 persons and one had 10 persons, the remaining house was one of 4 rooms with 10 persons.

Forty-eight houses were reported under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, for demolition; two parts of buildings under Section 12 for Closing, and one as an obstructive building.

Forty-two Demolition Orders; 3 Closing Orders and 1 Demolition Order for an Obstructive Building, were made during the year.

Undertakings were accepted to convert two back-to-back houses into a through house; not to use a back house for human habitation until converted into a through house, and not to use two houses for human habitation.

Demolition Orders.

Stourbridge :

Nos. 1 and 3, Bagley Street ; Nos. 62, 64, 66 and 141, Birmingham Street ; No. 26, Cherry Street ; Nos. 28, 30, 32 and 34, Grange Lane ; Lower Lodge, High Street, Wollaston ; No. 42, Hungary Hill ; Nos. 2 and 3, Bank Street.

Lye :

No. 50, Hayes Lane ; No. 157, 230, and 232, Stourbridge Road ; Nos. 24 and 25, Engine Lane ; Nos. 24 and 25, Balds Lane ; No. 47, Waste Bank ; No. 53, Belmont Road ; No. 10, Badger Street ; Nos. 20, 21, 111, 112 and 113, Pedmore Road ; No. 81, Dudley Road ; No. 21, Hill Street ; Nos. 1 and 2, Vicarage Road ; Nos. 10, 11 and 12, Fannys Lane ; No. 9, Skeldings Lane ; Nos. 127, 128, 129 and 130, High Street.

Closing Orders (Parts of Buildings).

Stourbridge :

No. 20, Mount Street ; No. 12b, King Street ; No. 90, Enville Street.

Obstructive Building.

Lye :

No. 49, Spring Street.

Undertakings Accepted.

Lye :

To repair Houses. Nos. 13, 14, 15 and 16, Love Lane ; Nos. 16 and 16b, Union Street.

Not to use for Human Habitation. Nos. 53 and 54, Cross Walks Road.

Not to use for Human Habitation until converted into through house with No. 29, Valley Road : No. 29 (back), Valley Road.

Five Closing Orders were determined during the year, four being after eight back-to-back houses had been converted into four through houses, and two houses adjoining converted into one, all the houses were thoroughly reconstructed.

Clearance Orders.

In May seven Clearance Areas were declared in respect of 65 houses with 233 occupiers, as follows :—

Chapel Street, Lye (Two Areas)	...	Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105.
Crabbe Street, Lye	...	12, 13 and 14.
Church Street, Stourbridge	...	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Copenhagen Row ; 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 52, Church Street.

Court Street, Stourbridge	...	Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11.
High Street, Lye	...	Nos. 159, 160 and 44, Love Lane.
Ludgebridge Brook	...	Nos. 49, 51 and 53, Perrins Lane ; Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Ludgebridge Brook.

In September, nine Clearance Areas were reported, comprising 66 houses with 225 occupiers, the houses included in the various areas were as follows :—

Bott Lane, Lye	...	Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.
Dudley Road, Lye	...	Nos. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56.
Engine Lane, Lye	...	Nos. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.
Gin Cridden, Lye	...	Nos. 3, 4 and 7.
Hickman Street, Lye	...	Nos. 9, 10 and 11.
Hungary Hill, Stourbridge	...	Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Lock-up Shop.
Red Hill, Stourbridge	...	Nos. 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37.
Rufford Street, Lye	...	Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11.
Talbot Street, Lye	...	Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The Orders were made in February, 1938, and these consisted of two Compulsory Purchase Orders and seven Clearance Orders.

An Inquiry was held on 23rd February, 1937, in respect of five Areas and the Confirmation Orders, dated 22nd June, 1937, were :—

<i>Area.</i>	<i>No. of Houses included in Confirmation Order.</i>	<i>No. of Houses excluded.</i>
Corser Street, Stourbridge	18	1
Heath Lane, Stourbridge	11	—
Enville Street, Stourbridge	15	—
Union Street, Lye	2	1
Underwoods Buildings, Union Street, Stourbridge	6	—
	72	2

One of the excluded premises was an owner-occupied shop and dwelling, the other house had been demolished at the time of the Inquiry. The Ministry suggested that compensation under Section 42, Housing Act, 1936, in respect of one house in Union Street, Lye, and one in Summer Street, Stourbridge.

The Inquiry in relation to the nine Orders made in May was not held until 1st February, 1938.

Thirty-six houses were demolished after Demolition Orders, 48 after Clearance Orders ; 11 were lost by conversion of back-to-back into through houses ; 7 parts of buildings were closed. In addition, 2 houses were demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders, and one house was closed on an Undertaking not to use it for human habitation. The total being 105 dwellings.

Six houses were repaired under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1936, by order of the Council, under my supervision and according to my plans and specifications. These were Nos. 15 and 17, Western Road, at a cost of £105 8s. 6d.; Nos. 41 and 43, Wood Street, Wollaston, at a cost of £154 12s. 6d., and Nos. 39 and 40, Brook Street, Wollescote, at a cost of £206 15s. 1d. The expenses were subsequently declared to be private improvement expenses and the rents of the houses are being collected by the Council.

Eleven Notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were complied with by the Owners.

Certificates were issued, under Section 51, Housing Act, 1936, to the Owner of three houses, to the effect that with reasonable care and maintenance the houses will remain fit for human habitation for five years.

Requests are frequently received from Owners of property for inspections to be made and plans and specifications for the repair and alteration of houses supplied. In most instances sculleries, with inside W.C.'s and coalplaces, are provided in place of existing wash-houses. Sculleries with inside W.C.'s were usually provided in cases where there were wash-houses and W.C.'s used in common, but now many Owners of property are taking down the detached wash-houses and W.C.'s of single houses and erecting sculleries with inside W.C.'s. It was a common method of the past to erect in connection with a house a detached wash-house in which there was the sink and water tap, so that the occupiers were compelled to go outside and cross a yard when requiring water or to use the sink. It is not an uncommon occurrence, where there is a detached wash-house, for the washing-up after meals to be done on the living room table, especially in inclement weather, so that when a house is furnished with a scullery it does away with this unsatisfactory practice.

Plans and specifications were supplied in respect of 29 houses, and specifications only for repairs at 14 houses.

RENT RESTRICTION ACTS.

No certificate was issued.

WATER SUPPLY, PEDMORE.

There are two separate supplies from private sources. One supply collected in an underground reservoir serves about 21 dwelling houses and three farms, the other supply is collected in another reservoir and is used by one house only. On 2nd December, a sample taken at one of the houses was submitted to the County Analyst for bacteriological examination. The Analyst reported that the water was of a suspicious character and asked for another sample. This was taken from another house, and sent on 10th December, and the examination of it confirmed the view that the water was not suitable for drinking purposes. The reports of the bacteriological examinations were:—

1st Sample :				2nd Sample :	
No. of Colonies developing on Agar :					
In 2 days at 37°C.	...	...	20	...	30 per 1 m.l.
In 3 days at 22°C.	...	...	270	...	260 „
Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive coli)					
count	...	...	50	...	50 per 100 m.l.
No. B. Typhosus, Cl. Welchii or Streptococci was detected,					

On 23rd December, a sample was taken from the reservoir supplying the houses and farms. The Analyst's report was that the number of colonies developing in 2 days was 70, and in 3 days, 500 per m.l.; the coli-aerogenes count was 180 per 100 m.l. and there was no evidence of the presence of *B. Typhosus*, *Cl. Welchii* or *Streptococci*. It appeared, therefore, that the water improved as it passed through the service pipes.

On 24th December, on the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health, the water in the reservoir was treated with chloros.

A sample was also taken of the water supplying the one house. The reservoir collecting this supply is about 100 yards away from the other one. The analyst reported that the number of colonies developing in 2 days was 6 and in 3 days, 60 per m.l., and that there was no coli-aerogenes, *B. Typhosus*, *Cl. Welchii* or *Streptococci* detected.

During the early part of 1938 the water was again treated with chloros and samples taken when the chlorination was exhausted. Considerable alterations were subsequently made to the pipes carrying water from the underground springs to the reservoir.

DISINFECTION.

At 97 houses the rooms which had been occupied by persons suffering from infectious disease were fumigated. At 27 houses fumigation of rooms was done principally after death had occurred. At 13 houses the rooms which had been occupied by tuberculous patients were thoroughly disinfected, in most cases the walls being sprayed and wall paper removed. Bedding and clothing taken to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection amounted to approximately 1,900 articles. Wards at the Maternity Home were fumigated upon several occasions.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Twenty-six additional water closets were provided, including 3 at factories. One privy, at a factory, was converted into a W.C. Four slop W.C.'s were taken out and W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus put in. Thirty-six sculleries with W.C.'s were erected, each of which with the exception of two, had access to W.C. from scullery. Eleven W.C.'s were re-erected, in most cases nearer the houses than the original ones. Repairs were done at 205 W.C.'s, including 73 new basins.

VERMIN.

Twenty-two houses were sprayed and fumigated on account of bug infestation, one was a Council House. Numerous articles of furniture and bedding were destroyed. Several houses were fumigated on account of fleas. Four houses which were excluded from a Clearance Area were fumigated by the Owner and some furniture destroyed. A number of houses were fumigated or sprayed before being demolished.

Insecticide either liquid or powder, was supplied to householders on account of infestation of bugs, fleas, crickets, ants, wood-worm, etc., and rat poison was supplied to a considerable number of householders.

OTHER MATTERS.

In January tunnelling under the Roadway in Dudley Road was done for the purpose of carrying out repairs to drains from premises in High Street, Lye. It was found that the connection of the drain to the sewer was on the far side of the sewer, and that the constant flow of water from the leaking drain had formed a cavity under the roadway about 12 feet high. A new connection was made to the sewer and the cavity properly filled up.

ASHPITS.

Six ashpits, used in connection with twenty houses were removed and ashbins provided.

HOUSE REFUSE TIPS.

There were no crickets seen at the tips during the year, but the tip at Lye was treated with waste acid on several occasions.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF OTHER SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT AND INSANITARY CONDITIONS REMEDIED.

Dwelling Houses.

Baking Ovens removed	...	3
Baths, additional, provided	...	3
Bedrooms, floors repaired	...	43
Bedrooms, new floors	...	19
Bedrooms, angle filleting provided	...	8
Bedrooms, new skirting boarding	...	91
Bedrooms, additional provided	...	1
Cleansed, white washed and redecorated (Rooms)	...	212
Chimneys (repaired)	...	46
Chair Rails and Picture Rails provided	...	38
Ceilings, plaster renewed or repaired	...	49
Ceilings relathed	...	33
Cellars filled in	...	4
Cellar Lights, new Gratings and Frames provided	...	13
Cellars, cleaned out and limewashed	...	8
Coal places, new, erected	...	33
Demolished (or closed)	...	105
Damp-proof courses put in	...	26
Door sills, new, put in	...	29
Doors, additional	...	42
Doors, repaired and rehung	...	38
Doors, renewals	...	76
Doors, weather boards provided	...	3
Floors repaved or repaired	...	65
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	54
Firegrates, additional provided	...	24
Food places repaved	...	9
Food places, new, provided	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	55
Roofs renewed	...	22
Repaired throughout	...	107
Sculleries, new, erected	...	36
Sculleries repaved	...	10
Stairs, repaired	...	27
Stairs, treads renewed	...	152
Stairs, handrails provided	...	32

Stairs, renewed entirely	...	9
Steps, renewed or repaired	...	11
Through ventilation provided	...	2
Ventilating air bricks put in	...	16
Wash-houses, thoroughly repaired	...	12
Wash-houses, washing boilers provided	...	39
Wash-houses, washing boilers repaired	...	11
Wash-houses, supplied with Water Taps	...	2
Wash-houses taken down	...	17
Wash-houses, floors renewed	...	10
Walls, external rebuilt	...	3
Walls, cemented internally	...	65
Walls, matchboarding removed	...	18
Walls, internal replastered	...	104
Walls, pointed or cemented externally	...	55
Windows made to open	...	14
Windows, new, additional, put in	...	20
Windows, larger, put in	...	5
Windows, repaired or renewed	...	144
Windows, Sash Cords, Weights, and Pulleys provided	...	52
Yards, paved	...	36
Paving repaired or relaid	...	38

Sinks.

Brick Sinks removed	...	6
New additional earthenware put in sculleries or wash-houses	...	21
Earthenware Sinks in place of Brick	...	6
Earthenware Sinks renewed	...	20
Sink waste pipes put in	...	6
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	7

Water Supply.

Water Taps put inside houses or sculleries	...	29
--	-----	----

Drains.

Relaid	...	...	4
Reconstructed	...	...	22
New chambers put in	...	...	9
Ventilated	...	...	15
New, put to houses	...	...	19
Additional gullies put in	...	...	37
Gullies renewed	...	...	24
Repaired	...	...	4
Obstructions removed	...	...	92
Chamber covers renewed	...	...	4
Syphons renewed	...	...	1
Drains tested	...	...	16

Ashpits

Removed	...	...	6
Houses, ashbins provided	...	...	20
Houses, ashbins renewed	...	...	3

Rain Water Spouting.

New additional spouting at fronts of houses	...	...	6
New additional spouting at rears of houses	...	...	10
Spouting repaired or renewed at front	...	...	43

Spouting repaired or renewed at rears	...	...	45
Downpipes lengthened or reconstructed	...	...	56
Box Gutters in footpath	...	...	4

Water Closets.

New, erected	...	...	21
Rebuilt	...	...	8
Additional provided	...	...	26
New Basins put in	...	...	73
Flushing Apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	35
Fresh water w.c.'s in place of slop w.c.'s	...	...	4
W.C. Water Supply pipes renewed	...	...	21
Other Repairs	...	...	76

Other Matters.

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	2
Overcrowding nuisances abated	...	...	28
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	3

Other defects remedied = 3138. This number includes the defects at houses which were demolished or closed.

SHOPS ACTS.

At the end of the year the number of shops on the Register was 780. There was one prosecution; this was for not closing a shop on the half-holiday. A fine of £1 was inflicted.

Alterations to Sanitary Conveniences were effected at a number of premises. Warnings were given in cases where offences were alleged to have occurred, and information was supplied to many shop keepers as to keeping of records and various other matters.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Seventy-seven licences were issued, 66 to store Petrol only, 6 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 5 to store Carbide of Calcium only. The sum of £46 15s. od. was received as fees for these licences.

The licences were in respect of 73,574 gallons of Petrol and 8,824 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT.

Sanitary Inspector.

